

NORTHRIDGE

Orem reaps complaints over canal road gates

Recreationists, water users group irked over obstacle intended to protect kids.

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer

OREM — Recreationists and the Provo River Water Users Association are vexed about two gates Orem City placed across the Murdock Canal road near Northridge Park.

The gates aren't working properly, hampering the association's access to the canal. Dozens of people have called the city or the the association to complain about the gates across the road, which is a popular trail for joggers, bicyclists and other recreationists.

"We're getting two to three complaints a day, from all types of people, from every different faction," said Richard Poulson, water users association superintendent. "It's becoming a major headache." Even worse, the gates and an

elaborate bridge over the canal are apparently not doing what they were intended to do: funnel children over the canal and away from its open water.

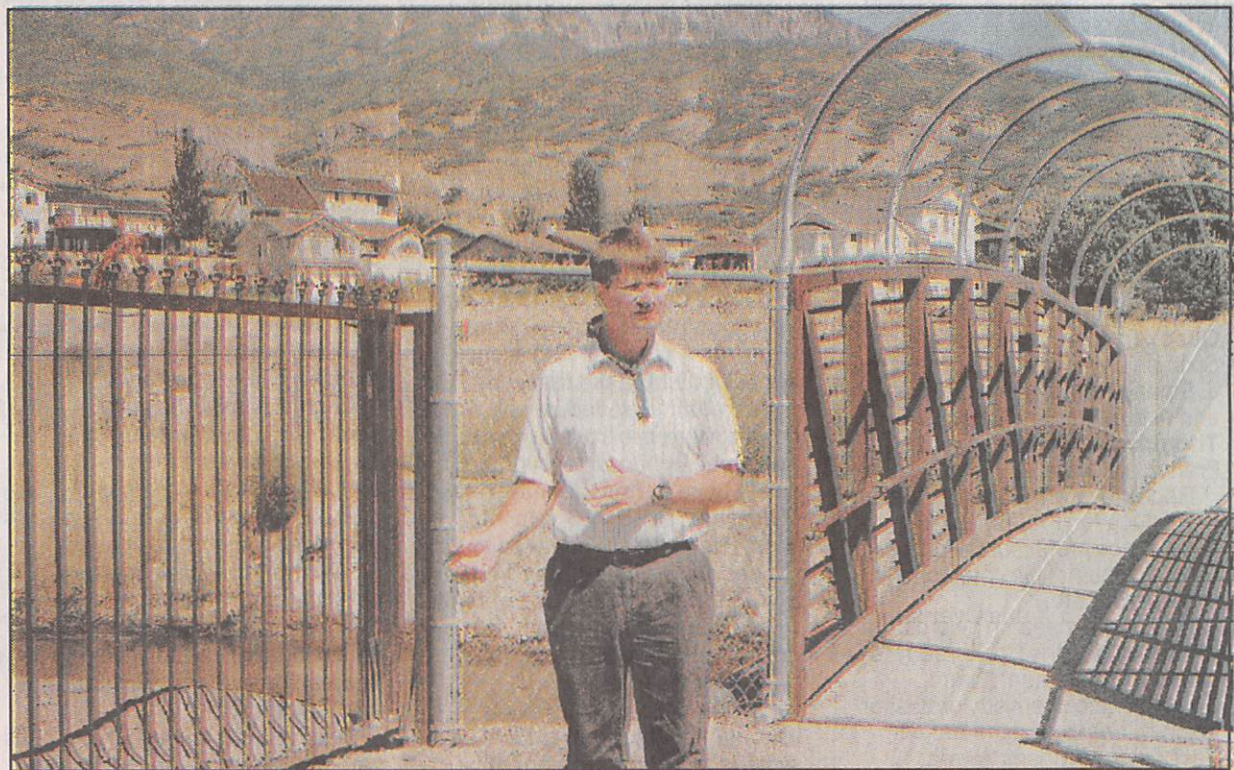
"The kids are on the canal more than ever before," Poulson said. "Both times this last week I went up there, there were kids on all sides."

Public Works Director Richard Manning said that despite the problems and complaints, the project is "worth it from the point of view that all the kids in the area have a bridge to cross."

They had been using a wooden footbridge southeast of the new bridge to cross the canal, Manning said.

"We decided to err on the side of caution and make it extremely difficult for a child to get into the water," he said. "I think we've accomplished that."

But children will be children; the bridge quickly became a jungle gym of sorts. Rather than walk across the bridge, some children



Neil Hargrave, who used to run and bicycle along the canal road, is dismayed by the new gates.

chose to creep across pipes along the outside of the structure. Many children on their way to and from school also stopped alongside the bridge to toss stones into the canal.

In a 4-3 vote several months ago, the City Council agreed to pour

more money into the project to keep children away from the canal. The tab now stands at about \$44,000.

Two gates close off the canal road on either side of the bridge. The sides and top of the bridge are

enclosed with wire mesh. On the west side of the canal, the city installed concrete steps and a ramp for handicapped people. The city also is fencing and putting in gates

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outstanding members administration and staff

professor of ancient scripture and active Egyptologist.

Honored as Alcuin Fellows for their contributions in teaching and scholarship were **Marion J. Bentley**, professor of theater; **D. Cecil Clark**, professor of secondary education; **B. Kent Harrison**, professor of physics and astronomy; **Richard H. Jackson**, professor of geography; **Suzanne E. Lundquist**, associate professor of English; **Howard Quackenbush**, professor of Spanish and Portuguese; **William J. Strong**, professor of physics and astronomy; and **Chantal P. Thompson**, senior lecturer in French and Italian.

Receiving Karl G. Maeser General Education Professorships were dance professor **Sara Lee Gibb** and humanities professor **George S. Tate**.

Prominent research awards given included the Sponsored Research Achievement Award, which went to chemistry professor **John D. Lamb**, and the Annual Technology Transfer Award, which was presented to **Dell K. Allen**, professor of manufacturing engineering and engineering technology.

The Ben E. Lewis Award for the university's top administrative employee went to **Christine M. Tolman**, associate director of the Office of Graduate Studies. The Fred A. Schwendiman Award, honoring BYU's top staff em-

ployee, was given to **Christine M. Tolman**. The only thing that's going to help is having some place to put them. Then it (the ordinance) would be a powerful tool."

Another aspect of Corradini's plan is strictly enforced curfews. In some cases, parents will be awakened and asked to retrieve their children. And Police Chief Ruben Ortega will beef up his gang unit, adding 14 more officers for round-the-clock surveillance.

But as she begins to wage war on the street gangs responsible for an estimated 62 drive-by shootings in Salt Lake County so far this year, Corradini faces stiff opposition from gun advocates who accuse her of punishing the innocent.

Corradini unveiled her plan at a news conference Tuesday, with Police Chief Ruben Ortega at her side. Shortly after the conference, officers arrested a 16-year-old West High student believed to be the accomplice in Sunday's Utah State Fair shooting — one of two recent gang shootings that prompted Corradini's call for a crackdown.

"We're here today to say 'Enough!'" Corradini said. "Our sense is that things are out of control."

But the new gun laws will require the support of the City Council, and gun advocates are promising to wage a powerful fight.

Doug Tapking, spokesman for

buy a gun and actually receive it. He said the law will harm only honest gun owners.

Gangsters, he said, do not get guns from dealers. They get them from other members. The suspect in the fatal shooting already was arrested, and laws supposed to prevent him from owning guns, but this won't do it.

Tapking said of the ordinance. "It won't do a thing to the violence that's out there."

He said the law may hurt decent people, such as an elderly person who can't afford to wait to buy a gun for protection.

Corradini said the gun laws will keep adult city residents from carrying handguns to school. She said school officials have told her of their concerns.

"We think the time has come to get guns out of the hands of children," Corradini said. The ordinance gets people up to the age of 18 out of the streets.

Several guns and other weapons confiscated from gang members were displayed on a table in front of the mayor during the news conference. Behind her were charts showing the rapid escalation of gang violence along the Wasatch Front.

In addition to the gun laws,

curfew becomes one hour earlier.

And, noting it does little good for Salt Lake City to impose strict gun

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along the east side of the canal.

The water users association gave the city permission to put in the bridge and gates but had a different understanding of what the project would entail, Poulson said.

For instance, the association expected the gates, which are electronically controlled, to swing to the sides, blocking off pedestrian access while trucks and equipment passed through the section. Instead, the gates lift vertically.

The gates came as a surprise to many people who've used the canal road for years.

"I had seen them putting in the bridge and putting up the gate, but I had assumed they were going to

have it open most of the time except when kids were going to school," said Neil Hargrave, who used to run or bicycle along the road several times a week. "I've never seen it open."

While the gates prevent access to the canal road from 1600 North, people can still get on the trail at 2000 North.

But the gates, which only the water users and city control, aren't stopping some people. They're climbing over them, breaking off pointed metal rods in the process, according to Poulson.

The fact is use of the canal road is officially restricted to the water users association and is marked "no trespassing." People using the route — joggers, walkers, off-road-vehicle users, etc. — can be cited and fined as much as \$300.

Suspects and the victim identified them from a photo spread. The boy, although only an accomplice, was booked into juvenile detention for investigation of attempted murder.

Both suspects are 16-year-old students at West High School.

On Sept. 1, 17-year-old Aaron Chapman died from a gunshot wound to the chest Sept. 1 outside the Triad Amphitheater after a concert. Asi Mohi, a football captain at West High School, has been charged in the slaying.

name and change," he said.

Farmington resident Jean Snoko brought her daughter to the fair for a dance performance and

"we don't live in a police state where officers, based on suspicions or skin color or clothes, can stop people and search them," he said.

Barnard said the searches would be legal only if applied to everyone who enters the fair, in the same way every passenger on an airplane must submit to a metal detector.

Salt Lake Police Lt. Jim Bell said the department has had no complaints on the new gang policy and Braegger said the crackdown is working well and "keeping the